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University of Missouri-St. Louis

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"Book Buy Back" reports missing money

BY SARA PORTER
Senior Writer

According to police reports, \$20,000 was reported missing from the "Book Buy Back" program in December.

Gloria Schultz, Director of Business and Management Services of the bookstore, said that she had taken some time off from the bookstore when she received a phone call from a Buy Back employee who informed her the money was missing from a safe.

"(The employee) told me that they couldn't account for their money. When they balanced their books, they didn't add up, so I called the campus police," Schultz said.

"We are looking at it as a theft. It is being investigated as such and is still ongoing."

- officer Tony Griemel
Campus Police

"We are looking at it as a theft," said officer Tony Griemel of the campus police. "It is being investigated as such and is still ongoing."

Even though the investigation is still ongoing, Griemel said that no new leads have surfaced. "We interviewed everyone who works at the bookstore to narrow it down to the field of suspects, checking where they were and what they know," Griemel said.

Griemel said that theft has been a problem at UM-St. Louis for the past year. "Mostly it has involved the theft of purses," Griemel said. "Sometimes people will leave purses out in the open, for instance they will be reading a book at the library then get up to put the book back and leave their purse behind."

Griemel said that the Book Buy Back investigation doesn't appear to be random.

"We are looking at as an internal theft and not someone who walked in off the street," Griemel said.

The Book Buy Back program is headed by the MBS wholesale company of Columbia, Missouri. Every textbook in the bookstore is on a database and scanned at half the price. Whatever books that the bookstore doesn't need get shipped to the MBS warehouse in Columbia. Schultz said that the missing money puts MBS at a disadvantage.

"It's their company, their money, their books," Schultz said. "We are looking at their money from their books."

Schultz said that the money should be held accounted for at all times. "(MBS) should reconcile it every day."

Despite the missing money, Schultz is positive of the outcome. "I think it will turn out okay," Schultz said.

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Chartwells serves up new dishes

New campus dining contract brings new food, lower prices to UMSL

BY NICK BOWMAN
Senior Editor

Chartwells, a division of the \$14 billion Compass Group, will take over control of campus dining starting this semester. By signing a five-year contract with the University, Chartwells will bring its national brand, which includes contracts with the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville and Southeast Missouri State University, to the UM-St. Louis campus. Chartwells also holds a contract with UM-Rolla.

The transition has been a smooth one as of yet. General Manager Bob Evans - no relation to the breakfast restaurant chain - came to the University on Dec. 10, and has been going through orientation since. Evans is working to make the transition as easy as possible for both the students and the campus and will not change any administrative policies, at least for this semester. All meal plans and pre-paid plans will still be honored, and there will be no changes to these two systems.

"Right now we're not changing anything," said Evans. "Why try to reinvent the wheel in the middle of the stream?"

One change that students shouldn't have issue with is pricing, which Evans said will stay around the same and even drop in many places. At some of Chartwells other campuses, many meals are under \$4.00.

Evans has not inspected the defunct South Campus dining hall, but he does plan to visit there sometime in the future. One of the projects that former general manager George Schmidt was working on before he left was opening that kitchen for the residents of Le Gras, Seton and Honors Hall.

Some menu item changes include



Tom Kroc, Catering Chef, Ramona Burgess, Retail Director and Dennis Dea, Executive Chef of Chartwells, will provide campus dining starting this semester.

Musumi Igarashi/The Current

an upscale soup and salad bar, as well as improvements to the delicatessen. The self-serve pasta bar will remain, with a choice of three pastas and two sauces every day.

One of the new additions to the Nosh will be what Evans calls the "Origins" area. This area will feature different cultural foods, such as Asian and Mexican, which will rotate out in two-week blocks. At all times, two certified chefs will be on staff to supervise

food preparation.

"With Origins, we'll probably start with Asian stir-fry, and mix it up every few weeks," said Evans. "Hopefully this will give the Nosh some variety during the semester."

Two all-new sections will be the Panini Grill and the Austin Blues Barbecue Pit. Pressed sandwiches and such will be the fare at the Panini Grill, which uses a giant press grill, similar to a George Foreman Grill, to sizzle the

sandwiches as they are ordered.

Austin Blues will serve up Texas-style barbecue to students cooked to order. However, due to some marketing problems, the Pit will not be ready for business in time for the start of the semester.

"We will have the barbecue pit open for business on January 22, right after Martin Luther King Day," said Evans. "Everything else will be in place in time for the start of the semester."

Besides the Nosh, Chartwells will also handle operations of Aroma's, as well as the two campus C-stores.

Aroma's will still serve the usual bagels and coffees, but will also serve Krispy Kreme donuts, as well as a broader selection of flavored coffees and cappuccinos. Many students will no doubt be disappointed, however, that Aroma's will close at 3:00 p.m.

see CHARTWELLS, page 8

Fire at Mansion Hill destroys apartment

BY ELIZABETH WILSON
Staff Writer

Mansion Hills residents received quite a surprise early Christmas Eve. It was not Santa and his eight reindeer, but a fire that awoke them. The fire happened approximately around 12:30 a.m. on 4450C Normandy Trace Drive. The residents who remained home for the holidays escaped unharmed.

Gary McMahan, maintenance supervisor of Mansion Hills, said that the fire is believed to have started in the floor of the utility closet. The fire is still under investigation by the Normandy Fire Department. The fire department could not be reached for comments.

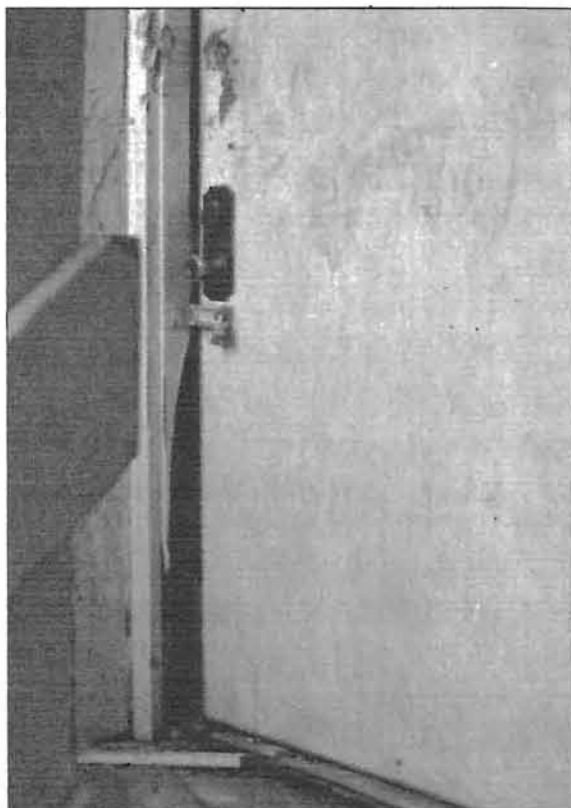
A quick tour of the unit reveals a faint odor of smoke. The doorway to 4450C is still charred with smoke

and debris. McMahan notes that the fire was rather hot. He recalls that it took two to three fire engines to extinguish the blaze. The fire almost completely destroyed the apartment, with the kitchen area receiving the most damage. McMahan is still waiting for damage estimates from the company's insurance adjuster. He estimates that it should take about a month to repair the apartment.

Two other apartments in the unit suffered minor damages. 4450A had water damage and 4450E received smoke damage. These apartments have already been renovated and their residents had already been moved back into them, said McMahan.

Mansion Hills Condominiums, located on Florissant Road, is partly owned by UM-St. Louis and is home to many students.

Fire fighters knocked down the door of apartment 4450C on Dec. 23 when a fire broke out in the apartment. No one was harmed in the early morning blaze.



Musumi Igarashi/The Current



Dr. Nance began his affiliation with the university in 1972 as an assistant professor in education. He was appointed Dean of the Evening College in 1993.

Evening Dean passes away

• *Touhill described dedicated Dr. Nance as a 'tireless advocate of education, mentor and friend to many'*

BY JOHN WALTON
Staff Writer

Everette Ellis Nance, the Dean of the Evening College at the UM-St. Louis, died Dec. 23, 2001 at his home in Bel-Nor.

Dr. Nance dedicated his professional life to education, community service and enhancing the goals of students in the St. Louis area for decades.

Dr. Nance began his affiliation with the university in 1972 as an assistant professor in education. He was appointed Dean of the Evening College in 1993. During his career at the university he was instrumental in the award of millions of dollars in grants for research and education at UM-St. Louis. Dr. Nance provided leadership in organizing and the administration of the evening program at the university. He believed in the pursuit of education by working adults and that the skills learned by them enhances careers, personal lives and

the community.

During his lifetime Dr. Nance was the recipient of many awards. Among them are the 2001 Visionary Award from the St. Louis Black Leadership Roundtable and the State Facilitator Award from the Missouri Leadership Academy.

His most recent goal was working to include a Bachelor of Science degree in Community Education in the UM-St. Louis curriculum. If approved, it would be the first of its kind in the nation to offer a baccalaureate. Educators nationwide were aware of this work. The program would serve as a model and be monitored for information and direction in developing similar baccalaureate programs at other universities. The emphasis of the degree would be to train students to work with corporations, nonprofit organizations, local school districts and governments. They would implement programs and policies to educate students in the local school districts about civic responsibility,

business ethics, values and career opportunities.

Everette Nance received his bachelor's in biology and chemistry from Knoxville College in Tennessee. After four years of service in the Navy, he earned his master's in education from Central Michigan University. He received his doctorate from Western Michigan University. During his career, he wrote many articles and pamphlets on community service and education programs.

In a statement issued by Chancellor Blanche M. Touhill, Nance was praised as "a tireless advocate for education. He was a dedicated mentor and friend to thousands of young people whose lives are better today for having known him."

On Jan. 23 at 5:30 p.m., there will be a memorial service for Nance in the Millennium Student Center.

He left his wife Karyn, two sons, five daughters, a brother and four grandchildren.

Bulletin Board

Put it on the Board:
The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations, University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5:00 p.m. every Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-served basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. Send submissions to: Editor's Desk, 388 MSC, Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis MO 63121 or fax 516-6811.
All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

14 Chemistry Colloquium V. Vijayamohan of the National Chemical Laboratory, will speak on "Applications of Self-Assembled Monolayers for Biomolecular Electronics" at 4 p.m. 451 Benton Hall. WWW.ums.edu/chemistry.	14 (cont.) Gallery FAB "Artocalypse," a collection of 15 works of art by Chicago-based artist and teacher Mark Palmer, runs through Feb. 8. Gallery FAB is located at 201 Fine Arts building. The exhibit is free and open to the public.	17 Career Services From 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. in 327 MSC learn how to find the job you're looking for and gain a competitive edge in the job market. Advance registration is required. Call x5111 or enroll in person at Career Services.	18 Public Policy Research Center A panel discussion called "Urban Sprawl: What's Health Got to Do With It?" From 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. in room 72 in the J.C. Penney Building. The discussion is free and open to the public. Call x5273 for more information.	19 Sigma Pi Fraternity Sigma Pi will be hosting it's semi-annual rush events at the fraternity house, 8645 Natural Bridge Road. This week come in your pajamas for the second annual Pi-Jama Party. Party is open to all UM-St. Louis students. Guests 18 and over, \$3.00 cover. Contact Rush chairman David Powers at 808-4510 for more information.
Winter Aerobics Classes begin today and run through May 6. There is a one time fee of \$45 for students, faculty and staff, and \$60 for alumni. Choose from a variety of classes. For schedule or registration contact x5326 or www.ums.edu/services/recsport.	15 Career Services From 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in 327 MSC learn about the job search resources available to students and alumni through Career Services in the free workshop. Advance registration is required. Call x5111 or enroll in person at Career Services.	Issues Forum The Public Policy Research Center will hold a Metropolitan Issues Forum call "Investing in Regionalism: The Role of the State" from 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. in Century Room C in the MSC. The Forum is free and open to the public.		

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The Campus CrimeLine

December 7, 2001
A student reported that her Fall Semester Parking Permit was stolen from her windshield between Dec. 5 at 2 p.m. and Dec. 7 at 12:50 p.m. The vehicle had been parked at Lot "ZZ" on the South Campus.

December 10, 2001
A student reported that a Missouri License Plate was stolen from his vehicle between Dec. 1 and Dec. 9 at Garage "N."

December 11, 2001
At 7:30 a.m., a student reported that four or five Black Males near the UM-St. Louis South Metro-Link Station approached her. One of the suspects grabbed

onto the students book bag, but didn't take the bag from the student. The student was not physically harmed.

The Manager of the "Book Buy Back" at the Millennium Student Center reported that \$20,000 was missing. The theft occurred between Dec. 8 at 2 p.m. and Dec. 10 at 7:30 a.m.

December 17, 2001
A staff person reported that her parking permit was stolen from her vehicle while it was parked at Garage "N" between Dec. 13 and Dec. 17.

A staff person reported that both front and read Missouri

License Plates were stolen from her vehicle while it was parked on the South Campus at Lot "V". The theft occurred between 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

December 18, 2001
A visitor to the Mark Twain Building reported that his wallet was stolen from the gymnasium between Dec. 13 at 12:10 p.m. and 1 p.m. The wallet was unattended.

A staff person at the Optometry Clinic reported that a Male suspect, who had entered her open office without authorization, took her wallet from her purse at 11:50 a.m. The victim confronted the suspect who

returned the victims wallet to her. Nothing had been taken from the wallet. The suspect fled the building.

December 19, 2001
A resident at the Bellerive Residential Hall at 3086 Bellerive Drive reported that a refrigerator was stolen from the building between Dec. 16 at 9 a.m. and Dec. 19 at 8 a.m.

A student reported that at 6:45 on Dec. 18, an unknown White Male approached her while she was studying in the "Flamingo Lounge" on the South Campus. The suspect demanded money from the student. No money was surrendered. No weapon was

displayed, or used by the suspect. Area Police Departments were notified with the suspect's description.

A student reported that between 2:45 p.m. and 3:15 p.m., \$70 in cash was stolen from her wallet. The wallet had been left in her vehicle that was left parked on Lot "E" and occupied by an acquaintance of the student. The acquaintance is a suspect.

December 20, 2001
A student reported that a NOKIA Cell phone and \$50 in cash was stolen from 104 Villa Residence Hall, between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m.

The Campus CrimeLine is a free service provided by the UM-St. Louis Police Department to promote safety through awareness.

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The MetroLink: a new perspective on a familiar city

BY KELLI SOLT
Senior Writer

North Metro Station - 3:32 p.m. A metro speeds off, followed nine minutes later by another to carry commuters off to the city. Most passengers are home-ward bound, on the way to where their cars are parked, or off to work.

Riding the MetroLink can make the commute convenient, cheap, or provide a change of scene.

An informal poll found that many people view the MetroLink as restrictive because of its limited service area. It only runs east and west now, but money has been allocated to expand it to Clayton by 2005. Residents of St. Charles continue to deny proposals to link up in spite of the city's growing population.

Public rail transit is in its infancy in St. Louis, but UM-St. Louis students can benefit by taking a ride.

UM-St. Louis is a commuter campus. With 9,750 parking passes sold fall semester and 12 student-parking garages, circling the lot for a spot is not foreign to most students. However, students who have shelled out the cash to attend UM-St. Louis can take advantage of one of the few perks that come with enrollment: free access to MetroLink.

Jason Wyman, a junior computer science major, takes a 10-minute ride every day to University City. At the Delmar stop he just has an additional 15-minute walk home.

If the metro does not help your commute, it can still provide a change of pace. Thuraya Al-Taai, a junior communications major, lives at The University Meadows and uses the MetroLink almost every day to go shopping or to parties and concerts.

"It is convenient for me and fast, and it goes just about everywhere I need to go," Al-Taai said. "However, sometimes I don't feel safe."

Three police departments are assigned to the MetroLink, including Illinois, St. Louis, and St. Louis County. Officer Denny Durso, a patrolman who has served in the area for 25 years, rides the rail to ensure safety on the MetroLink.

"There isn't too much crime," Durso said. "Just soliciting, fare skipping, a few assaults."

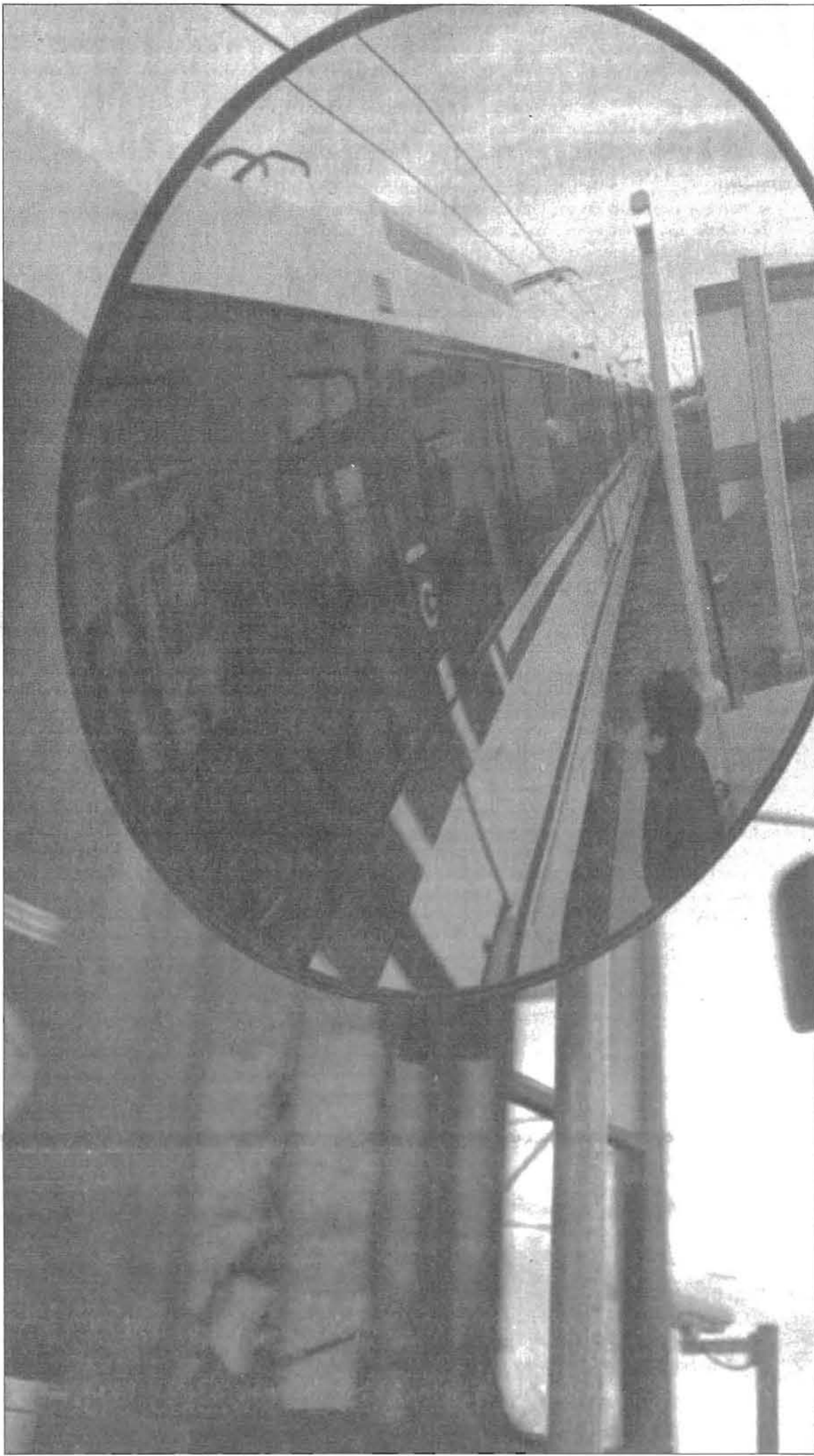
In addition to police, ticket security employees check for passes and tickets throughout the day. Cassandra Jones, who has worked for MetroLink for about a year, hasn't had many problems with people. She said that most people who ride use passes rather than tickets. She also assists physically handicapped people on and off the train, which features wheelchair access.

Students can take a ride to the airport to cut down on the expense and hassle of airport parking. The police department allows extended parking on campus with completion of a vehicle identity form.

Riding from North Campus to the last Missouri stop, the Mississippi Riverfront, takes a little over a half hour. If you take off from campus a little after 4 p.m., you can catch a sunset with the backdrop of the Arch and cityscape, then maybe head to the Casino Queen to pull a few slots or grab a bite to eat.

Other popular stops include Union Station and Delmar, which can put shoppers in walking distance of malls or shops. Central West End and Hanley cater to business commuters. Of course, Busch Stadium, the Convention Center, and Kiel (Savvis) Center stations get crowded during sporting events. Each stop takes anywhere from two to three minutes travel time.

If you have not taken a ride on the MetroLink yet, hop on and see where it takes you. At least you will arrive with a whole new view of the city.



Mutsumi Igarashi/ The Current

FEATURING

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St. Louis role highlighted in Louisiana Purchase

BY STANFORD GRIFFITH
Staff Writer

Although the Louisiana Purchase nearly doubled the size of the United States, few realize that St. Louis actually had a significant role in this historical event.

In an effort to correct this, Timothy O'Rourke, executive director of the National Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Committee (NLPBC), and Jacqueline Chambers, the assistant director of NLPBC, are currently making plans for a project celebrating St. Louis's role in the transaction.

"This is a three-part project," said O'Rourke, the Teresa M. Fischer Professor in Citizenship Education. "The first part is putting together a public-private partnership to plan for a major public festival to be held March 14, 2004."

President Thomas Jefferson, seeing a way to further America's Manifest Destiny, instructed Robert Livingston, Minister to France, to attempt to purchase the land. Napoleon Bonaparte, realizing that France was no longer in a position to continue to defend the land which it had seized from Spain, convinced the leaders of France to sell the land which

see PURCHASE, page 8

Economics professor visits Cuba

BY SARA PORTER
Senior Writer

When Public Policy Research Center Economics professor Donald Phares visited Cuba from December 7th-16th, he saw a country that contrasted its friendly openness with its strict regime.

"The people are very friendly and warm and inviting; also it's a safe country to walk around in," Phares said. "You could walk around Havana at three or four o'clock in the morning, and still feel safe. In fact people will invite you to their homes to stay for dinner or rum."

"Food is very scarce, so getting invited to someone's house is very important," Phares said.

Phares went to Cuba with a group called City-State which studies archi-

ture and urban design; the group was organized by syndicated writer Neal Pierce. For Phares, the trip to Cuba was a chance to experience the parts of the country that he missed on a previous trip in 1998.

"Before, I didn't spend a lot of time in Havana. I saw a lot more of the country," Phares said. "This time I saw more of Havana."

The City-State group spent time studying the housing developments and the hospitals in Havana.

"Housing is one of the biggest problems in Cuba," Phares said, describing the housing developments as old and deteriorating. "While we were there, a building had collapsed in Havana, killing six people."

"Much of the architecture of the houses are still in the old Soviet cinder-block style," Phares said. "Also, they

are very far away. A person living in Altimir (a town nearby Havana) and working in Havana would have to travel an hour and a half to get to their destination."

The hospital situation is also a problem in Cuba, Phares said. The group spent a great deal of time interviewing nurses and other hospital staff workers.

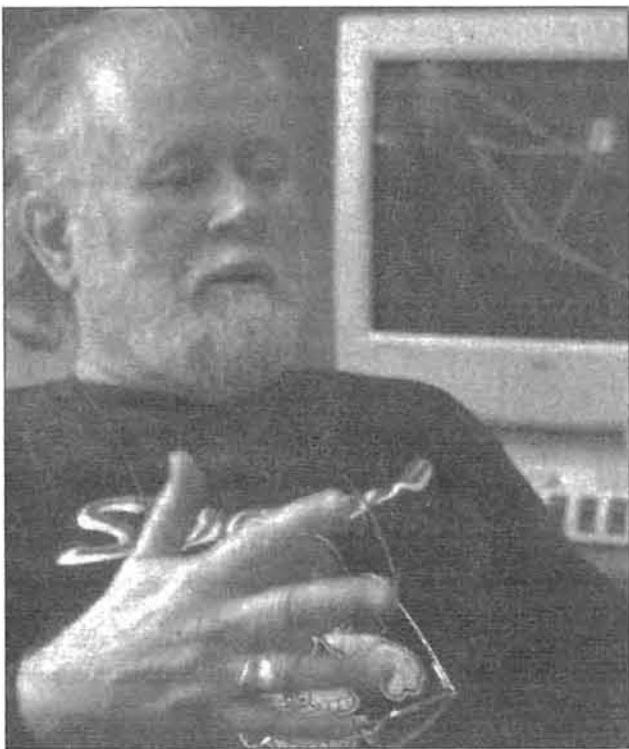
"They have access to health care, but not the equipment and pharmaceuticals," Phares said. "If you need aspirin and you are in the wrong place, where it is not available, you may not get it."

"Cuba has very dedicated doctors, they are just frustrated at what they cannot do," Phares said.

The City-State group also did tourist trips, such as visiting the places

see CUBA, page 8

Public Policy Research Center Economics professor Donald Phares describes his visit to Cuba.



Mutsumi Igarashi/ The Current

The post office delivers less magic, more bills

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE



EMILY UMBRIGHT

It's funny how simple pleasures change their meanings as the years go by. Trifles of daily life that seemed so special when I was little have evolved into chores I often forget about or avoid.

One such daily event I am particularly speaking of involves checking my mail. When I was little, I would rush out and check the mailbox every afternoon. When I felt quite certain that something in the mailman's bag of letters was for me, I would even go out and greet him. Now, the mail has become just another thing that slips my mind. It has lost its magic.

The mail is such a frivolous item of business, yet it holds great importance. Where I once received holiday cards,

invitations and letters from people living far away, I now am confronted with credit card bills, utility bills and car payments. It's just a lot easier to deal with them when my roommate remembers to check the mail. One would think that just the sight of the mailboxes I pass twice a day would have reminded me to look inside. But it doesn't. The mail has lost its magic.

One thing I continue to anticipate twice a year is the semester grade report. This semester, not really having a clue how things would turn out, I checked the mail daily. Yet nothing came. I just happened to log into the UM-St. Louis website only to find that grades were not mailed to anyone this semester. Rather, the administration

had decided to post the grades on the Internet. This appears as a natural progression in response to the newly adopted MyGateway program that students have been participating in for at least one semester; yet, it seems strange to me. I wonder how many people thought or took the time to look at UM-St. Louis's homepage to find their grades. I also wonder how many students who have been avoiding MyGateway figured out how to log in. I suppose I am underestimating the vast majority of the student body, but at the same time I feel that something is lost as more and more institutions rely on the computer as means of communication and information, especially at a time when people still work to

adapt to the change. Perhaps in this example, with grades, to ease the change into heavy technological reliance more people would have gained better awareness if they could have received their grades both ways.

This is just another miniscule example of the way everyday life is changing as a result of the Internet. Some people may not care either way. But for me, when I take all of these small changes and formulate them into a big picture, I am amazed. I am also amazed that despite the fact I walk past the mailbox at least twice a day forgetting to look inside, I always manage to find a computer and check my email several times a day.

OUR OPINION

Ready for WS 2002

2002, the palindrome year. The year of the Horse. Sh'vat, 5763. And as the classic cliché will play out, we all give ourselves a clean slate.

And why not? It's so easy to throw out all of 2001 with the turning of that second hand, and "The Current" believes as much as anyone else in turning over a new leaf.

So with that, here's our definitive New Year Resolution list, unabridged and unedited (insert your joke here) for your eyes only:

1) **Just like our masthead says, we are the campus source for news and information. That's who we are.**

Wondering when the next Riverman basketball victory is? Or where Ariana String Quartet is performing this week? Would you like an explanation of the UM-St. Louis budget situation. Well, if your answers weren't in the print edition, and you can't find them on the webpage, just contact us on the phone, x 5174. We are your source for information.

2) **Yes, we know how to spell multiple, so let's show the campus.**

Like any newspaper, occasionally we let some minor errors—and occasionally some majors one—slip past the editor's desk and into print. Well, we're not going to do that anymore. "The Current" has undergone some

major changes to its editing process in order to maintain the highest integrity.

3) **Objectivity is the key to our image. Save the editorializing for the editorial board.**

We are also working with our writers to work towards a less opinionated, more objective news staff. Obviously we all have our thoughts on certain subjects, but "The Current" understands it's role at UM-St. Louis as a newspaper—and in many aspects the only newspaper—that covers UM-St. Louis events. If we start to set an agenda in the community, then our roles as journalists are compromised.

4) **Let's broaden our coverage to include the South Campus and other oft-missed events.**

Many times, we tend to get so wrapped up in what's going on in Woods Hall that we neglect to mention more than 40 words about our very own students. "The Current" is always welcome to story ideas and press releases from student organizations. Just keep us informed.

We've made our commitment to the campus. As the sole provider of UM-St. Louis news and information, it is vital that we do the best possible job. After all, if "The Current" isn't investigating the mishaps that occur, then who is?

The issue:

Going with tradition, "The Current" poses the following New Year Resolutions to you, the reader, in hopes that you'll hold us to them. No more money business from us. We are your campus source for news and information.

We suggest:

Letting us know what you want from us. After all, this is your newspaper. Do you want St. Louis news? More business stories? Less parking stories? Keep sending us your suggestions, and if you're up to it, put in an application. We could always use more quality people.

So what do you think?

Tell us what you think! Drop us a line at the office, 388 MSC or online at:
thecurrentonline.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

A farewell letter from George

Thank you for the good time that we shared for the last five years and for the support through the bad times. The morning smiles, and the grumpy faces from studying all night. Friends that have become family. We have grown together from the Underground to the beautiful Millennium Student Center—a day we thought would never come.

The early morning parades, cooking for the float flunkies. Pep rallies, tree trimmings, Expo and Mirthday celebrations; what good times we had. Athletics, what can I say but "Go Rivermen! Go Riverwomen!" And let's not forget the Riverpup. Athletics, my second home away from home after the MSC. The staff and coaches are really great to be around. Pat, you have wonderful support staff; all of you should be commended. The athletes; the list is so long to name everyone. Good luck with the rest of your seasons, I'll make as many as I can. May the future bring you happiness.

To the resident population of UM-St. Louis, thank you for the years of watching you grow. Some fell in love, some fell out of love. Some kept grades, some didn't. No matter how you look at it I felt like a father to all of you, thank God you didn't ask for money at the same time.

Grounds, the mornings passing each other coming to work. The evenings passing each other on the way home. The jokes about being the first ones in and the last ones to go. Carol, you and your staff do amazing things to the grounds of the campus. Thank you for your friendship.

To the faculty and staff of the University, it has been a pleasure to sit and talk with you. For those I didn't get to know, I'm sorry. Here again there are so many people to name. I just don't know where to start. Thank you for the time we were able to share. I know we all have our favorites when it comes to students, faculty, staff and yes, even the

police. There is one thing I learned during my time here is that everyone has a kind heart most of the time. Yes we all have our bad days, so there are times we need to overlook some of the actions of others.

To my fellow co-workers and employees, there has been plenty of days we have been able to share our lives. From good times to bad, we are all a family. No since speaking of the bad days, which there wasn't many. May all of you be happy in your new adventures, wherever that may lead you. Remember to be true to yourself and others, this will bring you happiness in the long run.

Enough of the good-byes, all that is left to say are good luck to the future leaders of the world. May your lives be blessed in ways that only you will understand.

Thank you UM-St. Louis,
George Schmidt
Food Service Director

Is speeding a problem on campus?

I received a speeding ticket early Sunday (Dec. 30) morning around 3:30 a.m. As an UM-St. Louis Alumnus supporter and Bel-Nor resident for 40 years, I feel the UM-St. Louis police officer should have given me a warning. My UM-St. Louis Alumni sticker didn't help either. My wallet will remember this on the next UM-St. Louis fundraiser. Although there was not a soul on campus, I was exceeding the 20 mph speed limit but the officer was positioned to nail me as I came down the

hill from the Mark Twain Building heading towards Natural Bridge where you instantly pick up much speed due to the depth of the hill. The coppers were all over town that night which I was observing the speed limit and figured I was in a safe haven once I made it to UM-St. Louis. Much to my surprise, I vented my opinion with the police chief who did return my call and was very professional. I told him I jog and ride my bike around campus often and people fly through both the North and South campuses a

lot faster than what I was traveling. I think the UM-St. Louis braintrust should strategically position a few speed bumps on both the north and south campus to deter the people with the heavy foots and the speed limit should be raised to 25 mph. No one drives 20 mph. With the speed bumps, (I'll be glad to show where to put them) this will eliminate the people who drive like a bat out of Hell!

Sincerely,
Pat Williams

What's your opinion?

How do you feel about the topics we've written about?

- New Year Resolutions
- Conflict in the world
- Video Games

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Back to reality?

ISRAEL-It's just so damn depressing over here. As lovely as this country is—the beautiful landscape, the significance of its cities, the gorgeous citizens—it is just so fragile. One day I could come back here to see all of this rich culture, this deep spirituality, this wonderful land done with, and all over a "My God can beat your God."

Maybe it's me. My western mind has been trained to separate my belief from my life, my government from my spirituality, and my hatred from my actions.

To many of these people, that just isn't the case.

I talked to a Palestinian professor, and asked him about the Jewish faith. His response? A pathological state of mind.

I spoke with an Israeli—or Jewish, the term, we seem to feel, is interchangeable, and that's a whole nether story—shop-keeper, and I asked him about the Palestinians.

"The only good Palestinian is a dead one!" was his response. That old cliché, probably as old as this battle.

Coming from a fairly peaceful area, I just don't understand the hate. Or rather, I didn't understand. Sure, I'm a Caucasian with Asian-American blood living in a African-American neighborhood, but the only fear I have is getting stopped by a Bel-Ridge police officer for doing 25 in a 20.

When the "whites" and the "blacks" began to resolve their differences—a process that still isn't quite over, although it should be—the message preached by the late Dr. Martin Luther King was of peace. Of living in harmony with one another. The image

of a dark hand shaking a light one was one that most Americans could see, and the ones that couldn't, the bigots, were largely shunned.

But here in the Middle East, that isn't the image. A Palestinian and a Jew will never shake hands, at least not on a grand scale. The Arabs want to drive the Jews into the Mediterranean, and the Jews want to occupy the old Ottoman Empire until Yassir Arafat either gives up the fight or dies trying. "Peace" is a word used to describe a "you-stay-in-this-corner, I'll-stay-in-that-one" mentality.

At least that's what we think.

Perhaps the most striking symbol of the fragility here can be found in the Old City of Jerusalem.

To the Jewish faith, the Western Wall, or Wailing Wall, is the holiest of all sites. Jews from around the world make their *aliyah* to pay homage to the only

remaining section of the second temple of King David of the Jews. Archaeologists from around the world have yet to find conclusive evidence that this is indeed the wall, for they cannot excavate it. For atop the wall sits another important holy site; the Dome of the Rock, the ultimate icon of the Muslim faith. This is where Muhammad ascended to heaven, and this is where the holiest of Muslim come to pray.

And to excavate the site would mean the destruction of the Dome.

These two sites service thousands of righteous people each year, perhaps 50 feet from each other, and I wonder when one day those lines will cross?



NICK BOWMAN
Editor-in-Chief

Retro Video (games)

My friend Neal has a lot of neat stuff around his house. He has such items like a box full of old baseball cards, two chairs bought by selling a rare Tiger Woods card for \$2,300, and a state-of-the-art home entertainment system. Up on the wall near his kitchen is a treasure, over 500 Nintendo 8-bit games.

Neal has a functioning Nintendo, and we were playing some games that still worked. It made me wonder how far video games have come.

My first experience with video games was in first grade with Pong. I remember those early Sunday mornings with my father trying to get the video game to work with our television. When he did get it to work, I was mesmerized with the game of hitting a ball back and forth to the other player.

Later I became enthralled with coin-operated games. My favorite was game of all time was Double Dragon. I remember rounding up enough quarters and heading up to Dairy Queen with my childhood friend Andrew for video game hand to hand combat. Around that time I remember I had to write a brief "how-to" guide on whatever I wanted for school. I wrote mine on how to bargain with the Dairy Queen owner to buy one of the coin-operated machines for her.

Around that time I got a Nintendo 8-bit system. I went over to Andrew's house all the time to play Zelda and Mike Tyson's Punch Out, but now I didn't have to set foot out of my house to play Nintendo. I remember playing Super Mario Brothers until my eyes bled.

A couple of years later, my mother then gave me a Sega Genesis for

Christmas. Not only was the Sega more colorful than my Nintendo (16-bit up from 8-bit graphics), but it also had improved game play. Not only could I pretend to be Joe Montana, I could also chose the same game plays he does.

As the years went on, my old games began to collect dust. But then I bought an N64 from my best friend Joe. All of a sudden, a whole new world of video games was revealed to me. I bought a bunch of games that would quench my need for speed in San Francisco Rush and Super Mario Kart.

My buddy Neal, however, has a Playstation 2 and has games that are incredible in graphics. I recently watched Neal play our buddy Mike in the football game, Madden 2K2. The camera angles, player movements, and game format give you the feeling of

actually playing in a live game while listening to the play by play by the commentators.

Whenever I'm hanging out with Neal we always play on his old 8-bit Nintendo. The game of our choice is RBI Baseball 3. The game play is easier (the batting sequence is 2D as opposed to 3D) and includes great teams from the 80s. It's always fun playing with Mike, who always bemoans my usual team, the Oakland A's with Mark McGwire (whom Mike feels is overrated). It's always great when McGwire hits a home-run—drawing a huge, disappointed sigh from Mike.

With video games, I've found that today's games are nice, but yesterday's games hold a nostalgic appeal that doesn't fade with time.



STEVE VALKO
Managing Editor

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Letters to the editor should be brief and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity, length and grammar. All letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number. Students should also include their student ID number.

Under Current
by Maggie Matthews
staff photographer

What is your New Year's resolution?



Tracie Randle
Freshman / Mass
Communication

"Mine is like everybody else's, lose 10 pounds. My second one is to get another job and make more money."



Keeton Spann
Senior / Business Management

"To do better than I did last year and to be a better person."



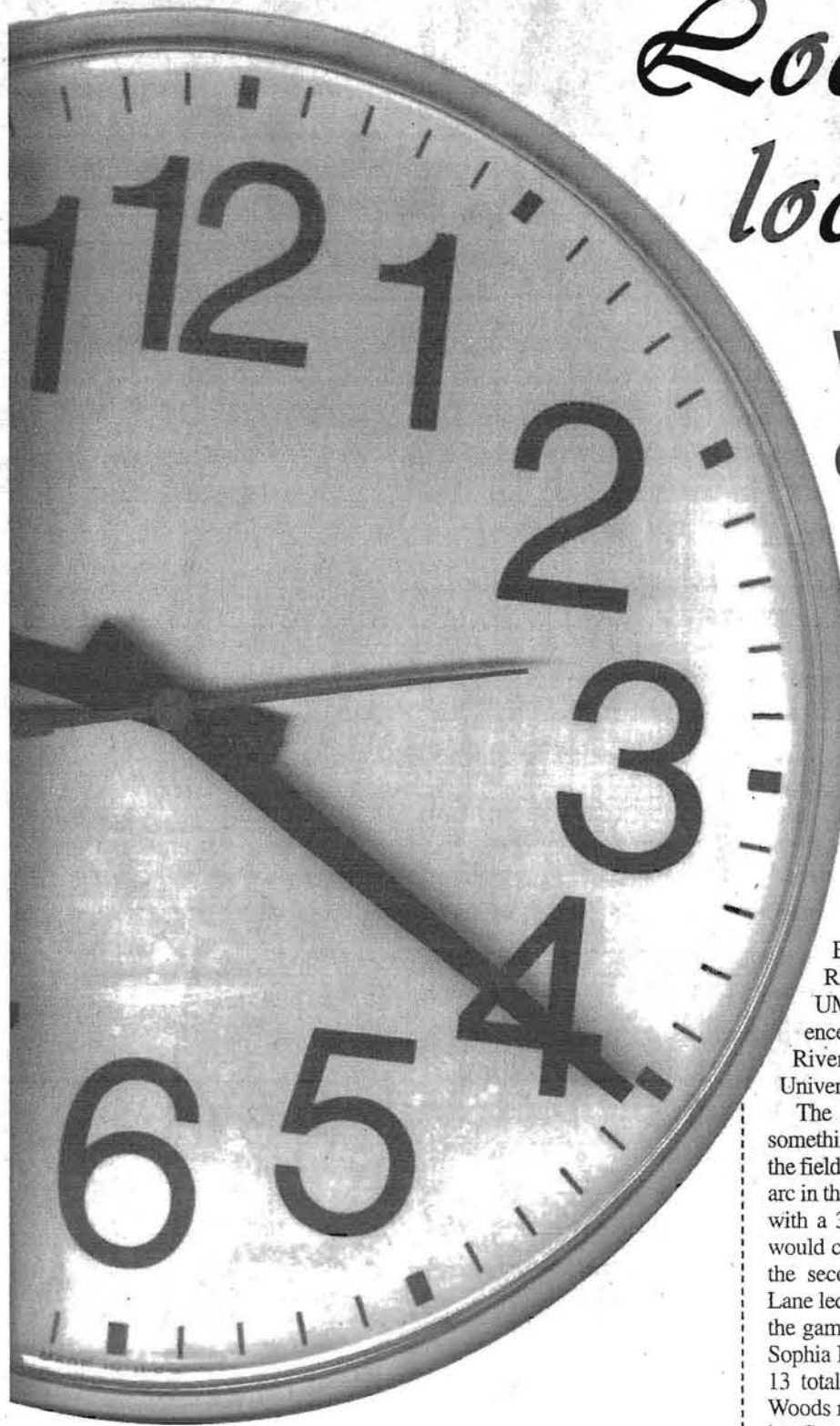
Laura Tobias
Junior / Communication

"To get better grades and to study a lot more."



Eric Morgan
Freshman / Business

"Achieve greatness in everything I do."



Looking back... looking ahead

Women finish first half of season below .500

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
Staff Editor

The Riverwomen's basketball team hit the Christmas break hoping to close the gap in the Great Lakes Valley Conference and improve their overall record. They succeeded in going 5-4 over the holidays, moving their overall record to 6-7 on the season and 3-4 in the GLVC.

After falling to SIU-Edwardsville at home, the Riverwomen rebounded well as UMSL recorded its first conference win of the season as the Riverwomen defeated Lewis University at home 71-51.

The Riverwomen came out with something to prove as they 47% from the field and 42% from the three-point arc in the first half to go into half-time with a 38-25 lead. The Riverwomen would continue to extend that lead in the second half as forward Christy Lane led all scorers with 30 points for the game and seven rebounds. Guard Sophia Ruffin finished the game with 13 total points, while center Jessica Woods recorded 12 rebounds, including five offensive rebounds.

After the first conference victory of the season, the Riverwomen played host to non-conference opponent Washburn.

Washburn came out with tremendous intensity and took a 29-26 lead going into half-time. But the Riverwomen responded, as they were led by forward Lynette Wellen who finished with 14 points in the contest en route to a 63-60 victory for the Riverwomen. Lane finished the con-

test with 11 points, while Woods added 10 points respectively.

After two consecutive victories by the Riverwomen, they headed to the road to play GLVC conference foe St. Joseph's.

This match proved very tiring for the Riverwomen as the Pumas from St. Joseph's were no push over. The Pumas came out in the contest and raced to a 42-32 half-time lead. The Riverwomen would respond though in the second half, outscoring the Pumas 33-23 and sent the game into overtime.

The two teams came out red hot in the first overtime, as both the Riverwomen and the Pumas scored 16 points in the extra period, but no team was able to get an advantage and sent the game into a second overtime.

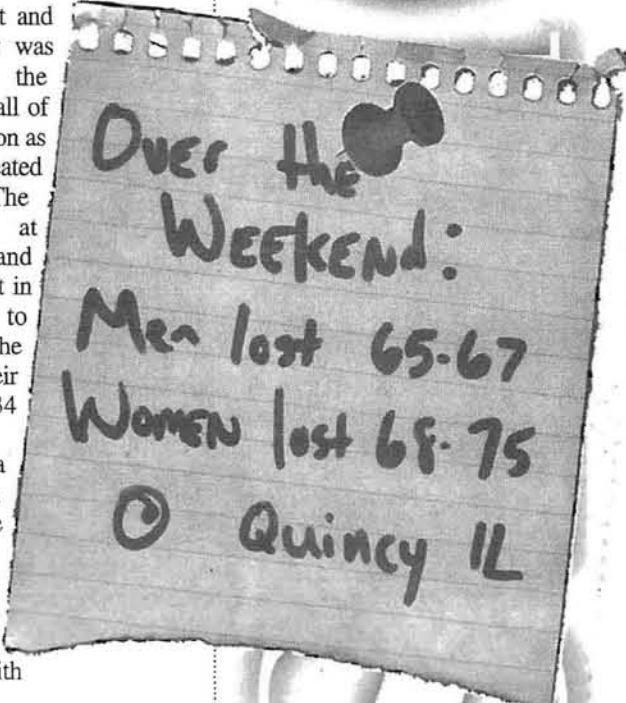
The Pumas from St. Joseph's got the edge in the second overtime and defeated the Riverwomen 97-93. The loss dropped the Riverwomen to 1-3 on the year in conference play.

Sophia Ruffin led the Riverwomen with a career high 25 points and five rebounds. Lane finished the contest with 17 points, while Larissa Cordiano and Wellen finished the game with 16 and 10 points respectively.

Two days later, the Riverwomen tangled against Indianapolis in another GLVC game. The Riverwomen came out slow, as they hit only 25% of their shots taken in the first half, including only registering six field goals. Indianapolis thrived off of that as they finished the first half with a 36-15 lead.

The Riverwomen came on in the second half to outscore Indianapolis 25-23, but it was too late as Indianapolis held on for a 59-40 vic-

• The UMSL basketball season is split over two semesters. This issue, we take a look at each year to show you what has changed, and what has to change on the road to the GLVC



Men's basketball split six games over the break, ready for GLVC stretch

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
Staff Editor

Over the course of the month of December and throughout the Christmas break, the Rivermen played six games, going 3-3 on the break to move their overall record to 6-4.

The first game of December featured the Rivermen pitted against Great Lakes Valley Conference foe Lewis University.

Coming off a loss to SIU-Edwardsville, the Rivermen only shot 7-23 from the field in the first half, trailing Lewis University 30-20 at half-time. UMSL preceded to outscore Lewis University in the second half 38-36, but the 10 point first half deficit was too much for the Rivermen as they fell to Lewis University 66-58.

SLU transfer Deryn Carter led the Rivermen with 14 points, while senior Scott Kassel tallied 13 points and six rebounds in the losing effort.

The Rivermen rebounded off the conference loss to handily defeat Missouri Baptist 79-55 in a non-conference match.

The Rivermen were keyed by a strong second half as UMSL outscored Missouri Baptist 41-24 in the half.

Senior Jim Schelich led all scorers as he tallied 23 points and recorded 10 rebounds in the win. Jarrett Brown and Doug Lee added 15 and 13 points respectively in the effort.

The Rivermen then traveled to play at St. Joseph's in a conference match and continued their winning ways, defeating the Pumas 81-61.

The Rivermen held preseason All American Brent Mason to only seven points in contest, on 2-7 shooting and held the Pumas to 37% shooting in the game.

The Rivermen, on the offensive

side, flourished as they shot 58% from the field for the game, shooting 60% from the field in the second half.

Carter led all scorers with 24 points while three Rivermen- Kassel, Brown and Lee all finished with double digits.

The Rivermen then traveled to play against Indianapolis in another conference match. The Rivermen were not as fortunate in this outing, as Indianapolis, keyed by a 47-38 second half, defeated the Rivermen 82-73. The two teams were dead even at 35-35, but Indianapolis shot 63% from the field and held the Rivermen to 41% from the field to win the conference match.

Schelich and Kassel led the Rivermen as both scored 18 points a piece, while Brown added 14 in the losing effort.

The loss moved the Rivermen to 2-3 in the GLVC and 5-3 overall.

The Rivermen, coming off the loss at Indianapolis, came home to host UM-Rolla in a non-conference game. UM-Rolla came into the contest with an overall record of 6-1 and proved too much for the Rivermen, defeating UMSL 71-67 in a battle between the two Missouri schools.

Scott Kassel finished the game with a career high 26 points and 11 rebounds in the non-conference loss.

The Rivermen then finished the 2001 season on a high note, as UMSL defeated Harris Stowe 80-65 in a non-conference match.

Kassel shined again, recording his second consecutive double-double, tallying 22 points and 16 rebounds in the win. Schelich and Carter each finished the game with 21 and 18 points respectively.

The win moved the Rivermen to 6-4 overall, closing out the 2001 campaign.

New year looks good for ladies b-ball with 2 wins

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
Staff Editor

The 2002 half of the Riverwomen's basketball season has started off with a bang as the Riverwomen have recorded two conference victories, while falling in a non-conference game to improve their overall record to 6-7 overall and 3-4 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

In their first contest in 2002, the Riverwomen hosted Bellarmine University. Bellarmine came into the contest with a 8-2 overall record and 4-1 in the GLVC, but that did not intimidate the new Riverwomen as UMSL came out firing in the first half and took a 30-21 lead into half-time.

The Riverwomen continued their new leaf in the second half and outscored Bellarmine 39-31 in the second half to win the conference game 70-51.

Guard Sophia Ruffin led all scorers

with 25 points, while center Jessica Woods started the new season with a double-double, recording 15 points and 12 rebounds in the win. Forward Lynette Wellen also finished in double figures as she amassed 14 points on 7-13 shooting.

The Riverwomen's defense was key in the victory as UMSL held Bellarmine to 28% shooting for the game, including 9-36 shooting in the second half by Bellarmine, good for 25% from the field.

The second conference game of the 2002 campaign followed as Kentucky Wesleyan came to the Mark Twain Gym.

The Riverwomen continued their hot shooting as they led Kentucky Wesleyan 34-31 at half-time, but erupted in the second half to tally 49 points to win their second consecutive conference game 83-59.

Wellen led all scorers with 23 points, while Christy Lane added her

first double-double of the 2002 year scoring 20 points and recording 10 defensive rebounds in the victory.

With two conference victories in a row, the Riverwomen headed south to take on Drury University in a non-conference match.

The Riverwomen came out sluggish in the first half as Drury seized the upper hand, taking a controlling 46-29 half-time lead and never looked back as Drury defeated the Riverwomen 81-56, to move the Riverwomen's overall record to 6-7 on the season.

The Riverwomen now are hitting their main stretch of conference matches, as the Riverwomen will hit the road for three consecutive conference games against Quincy University, Lewis University and Wisconsin-Parkside, before returning home Jan. 24 to play host to Indianapolis, a team that previously defeated the Riverwomen 59-40.

Men drop two games to start 2002

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
Staff Editor

The 2002 campaign has not spelled good news for the Rivermen's basketball team thus far as the Rivermen have dropped their past two games, both losses coming at the hands of Great Lakes Valley Conference foes, moving

their overall record to 6-6 and 2-5 in the GLVC.

In the first game of the 2002 year, the Rivermen lost to Bellarmine University 71-63 in overtime.

The Rivermen came out and led Bellarmine in the first half 29-24, but Bellarmine rallied in the second half to outscore the Rivermen 33-28 and send

the game into overtime. The Rivermen held a 15-point lead 51-36 with eight minutes remaining in the game, but Bellarmine used a 21-6 rally to force the overtime.

Bellarmine used a nine-point run in the overtime period to take control of

see BASKETBALL, page 7

Entertainment: sports at face value



LATEST SCOOP

DAVE KINWORTHY

The 2002 year is upon us and I am already at a loss for words. I just cannot believe that it is the year 2002. There is nothing more depressing for a graduate student or even a college student then to look around and see all of those high school kids and their letterman jackets that boast the year 03 or even 04 or the shoulder.

The years at UMSL have been long and strenuous for myself and probably for any other student that actually puts any effort into this university. I have created one primary goal for this 2002 year, though for myself, and I hope that more people will follow the same idea- to appreciate sports for what they are- pure entertainment.

Sports has been my haven for as long as I can remember, but I truly never appreciated what they did for

me as an individual. I am not talking about those long hours in the gym where I try to perfect a jump shot that I know will get rejected in the first game I play in. I am talking about the appreciation for the athletes that are many moons better than I am in a given sport. They allow the sports junkies, myself included, to have a place to go and just drift off for a while from the real problems of having to go to work and school on any given day.

I remember when I was a kid (oh how many years ago that really was) watching Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and Larry Bird playing in the National Basketball Association. I remember looking up to Jack Clark because he was probably the only St. Louis Cardinal who could hit a home-

run in that era. I remember the Blues when they had a checking line that boasted two Sutter brothers and Bob Bassen or even when they had a goaltender named Greg Millen.

Those memories are fond ones for me, but today is really what counts in the world. You can talk about back in the day stuff for an eternity, but you cannot change what you have watched, how a player has played and what you appreciate.

Today's athletes are far more athletic than back in the day. There really is no comparison when you look at how the NBA or even in within professional soccer in the United States. Athletes are of a different breed and from day one, are forced to perfect every fine detail in their respective sport.

Appreciate these athletes for what they have done and what they have sacrificed to get to where they are at. I hear all of these sob stories about how an ordinary Joe Blow got out of a hick town to succeed and now he is going to be a professional athlete. That is the story of Larry Bird. These stories may not seem heart warming and there are too many of them, but respect the person, not the story for what they have gone through to get where they are at. Not everyone can be a professional athlete. If they could, I would be in the NBA right now, even though I am 5'9".

Kinworthy writes a regular column featured here, and also on our web page at www.thecurrentonline.com

EDITOR

DAVE KINWORTHY

Sports Editor

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fax: 516-6811

NCAA Div. II Pre-Season Poll

(As of Dec. 20, 2001)

1. North Florida 47-17
2. St. Mary's, Tex. 50-13
3. Ala.-Huntsville 41-17
4. Kennesaw St. 45-15
5. Central Mo. St. 53-10
6. Tampa 49-10
7. Delta St. 50-11
8. Sonoma St. 50-17
9. Florida Southern 35-18
10. Abilene Christ. 43-17
11. Columbus St. 37-19
12. Indianapolis 51-15
13. Central Ok. 40-15
14. Mass.-Lowell 39-19
15. St. Leo 35-24
16. Georgia Coll. & St. 41-18
17. Cal. St. San Bern. 33-19-1
18. Armstrong Atl. St. 38-15
19. Missouri-St. Louis 30-23
20. Minn. St.-Mankato 32-15
21. S. Colorado 5-14
22. N. Alabama 30-18
23. S.E. Oklahoma 30-16
24. Slippery Rock 31-21
25. Ashland 38-18

(information for this poll was provided by College Baseball Newspapers)

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EDITOR

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
AGE Editor

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fax: 516-6811

A&E
Campus
Calendar

EVENTS

January

24
Jan. 24 - Feb.23. Gallery 210 will present a display on "Divine Humility: Jesus: Icons in Contemporary Mexico," presented by photographer, Robert Lewis. Gallery 210 is open Tuesday-Saturday from 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The exhibit is free. For more information call Gallery director Terry Suhre at 516-5592.

29
Singer songwriter, Larry Kirwan will perform a concert from 12:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m., in Room 205 of the Music Building. The Concert is free and open to the public. For more information please call International Studies at 516-6495 or visit www.center-international-studies.org

MOVIE MARQUEE

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

Top 100

Top ten (plus two) movies of 2001

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Staff Editor

It's almost a tradition to pick one's favorite films for the passing year. This year was most unusual in films. Up until fall, it was looking like the only great films of the year would be "Memento," "Moulin Rouge," and the re-cut "Apocalypse Now Redux." But rather than having to scrape together ten acceptable films as we had to do in 2000, there was a last minute explosion of terrific choices. There were so many that I decided to restrict the top ten to only entirely new fiction films, with two special mentions outside that range. Here are my picks, roughly in order, for the best films of 2001:

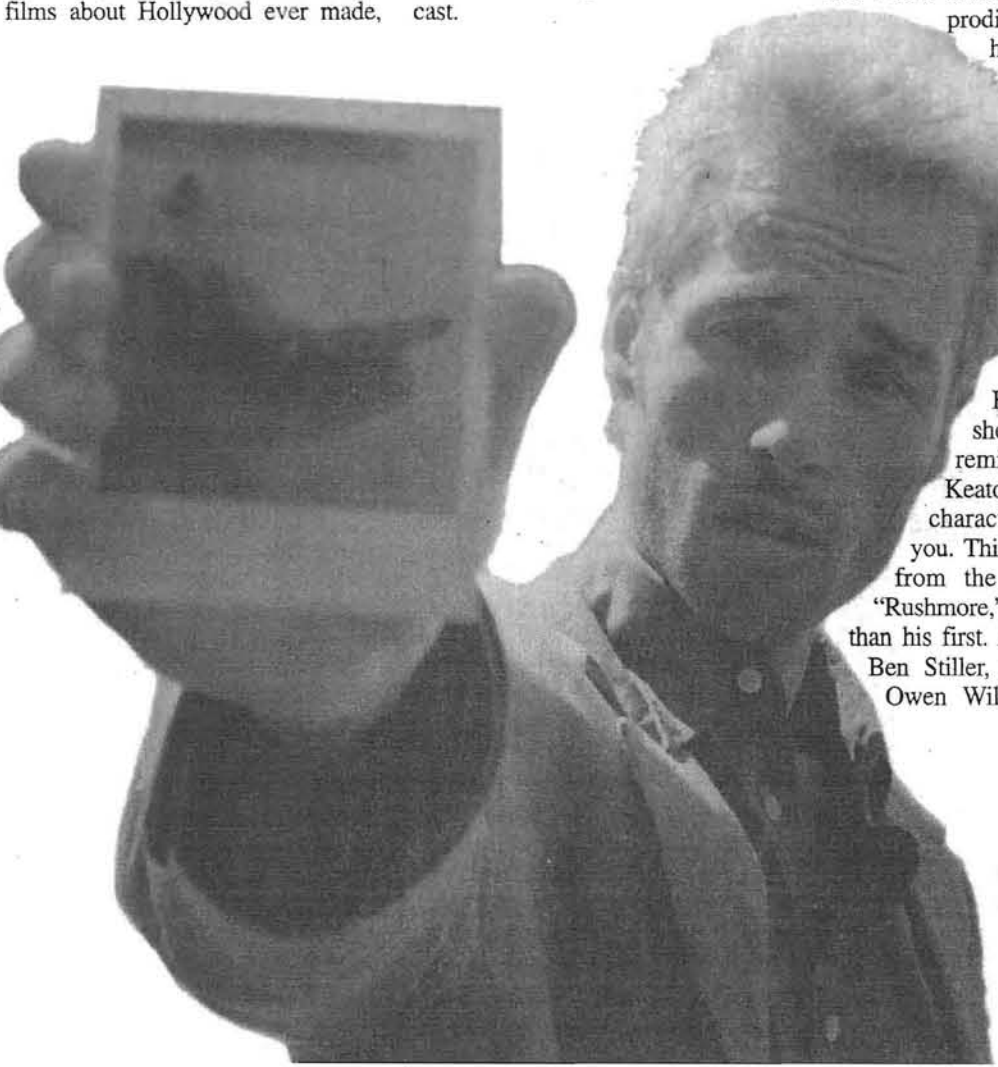
- 1
Memento
- 2
Amelie
- 3
Mulholland Drive
- 4
Moulin Rouge
- 5
Lord of the Rings
- 6
Ghost World
- 7
Royal Tenenbaums
- 8
The Man Who Wasn't There
- 9
Hedwig and the Angry Inch
- 10
The Deep End

and classic David Lynch.
4. "Moulin Rouge" - This is a musical unlike any you have ever seen. The story is set in 1900 at the Moulin Rouge, the fabulous dance hall of Paris frequented by famous artists such as Toulouse-Latrec and decadent late-Victorian wealthy men. Beautiful and weird, comic and tragic, the film both pokes fun at the conventions of musicals and re-defines them for the millennium. Instead of

"Amelie" is
Hilariously funny,
surprising charming,
beautiful
and romantic.

using songs written for the film, sincerely sung, as musicals traditionally do, it reinterprets pop song hits, in surprising and comic ways, to tell its story. All set in a visually dazzling fantasy, the film is side-splittingly funny and as timelessly romantic and tragic as opera. Seeing Jim Broadbent singing "Like A Virgin" is alone worth the price of admission. Nominated for a Golden Globe and a likely Oscar-contender. Stars Nicole Kidman and Ewan MacGregor.

5. "Lord of the Rings" - The expectations were high for this adaptation of the first book of the J.R.R. Tolkien trilogy, and the film succeeds in fulfilling them. A beautiful, moving, action-packed epic adventure shot in gorgeous New Zealand and filled with breath-taking special effects, the film has delighted even those who don't care for elves and magic with its tale of courage and nobility, good and evil, and a quest to destroy the sinister ring of power. Wonderful acting from a marvelous cast.



6. "Ghost World" - This darkly comic adaptation of the graphic novel of the same name retains the comic book color and look, and the desperate and despairing tone underlying the humor. A different kind of coming-of-age tale about two young women who feel like outcasts, distaining the conventional world and feeling isolated at the same time. A remarkable picture of late adolescence that is convincingly real, extremely funny, and touchingly sad, too. Outstanding on all levels - story, direction, photography, acting. Thora Birch, from "American Beauty," is especially amazing, and Steve Buscemi is perfect as an oddball collector of old records.

7. "Royal Tenenbaums" - A quirky kind of family comedy that is deeper than it looks. Set in the '60s and '70s, it's a tale about a family of child prodigies who seem to have lost their way as adults and the kind of confusion that ensues when their wayward father decides to try to reunite with his family. Great acting, especially by Gene Hackman, lovely shots and visual humor reminiscent of Buster Keaton, and a story and characters that grow on you. This is the second film from the writer/director of "Rushmore," and is even better than his first. A cast of stars with Ben Stiller, Gwyneth Paltrow, Owen Wilson, Luke Wilson,

Anjelica Huston, and Danny Glover.
8. "The Man Who Wasn't There" - This latest Coen Brothers movie is a must-see for fans of '40s-'50s film noir and real pulp fiction novels. This is the best homage to the genre ever. The look is perfect noir, the plot is full of twists, and the acting is terrific. It has the complete attention to detail that marks all the Coen Brothers' work, as well as their usual wonderful script. Stars Billy Bob Thornton, James Gandolfini, and Frances McDormand.

9. "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" - This is a surprising film that is somewhat reminiscent of "Rocky Horror Picture Show" in its camp and fun, but eventually develops a touching story behind the comedy. Based on a stage show but moving beyond that in a partially animated film, it is a punk rock musical about an "internationally ignored" band with gender-bender lead singer Hedwig. Hedwig has a bit of history - a botched sex-change operation in order to marry an American GI and escape East Berlin, only to see the Berlin Wall crumble a few years later. Under the silliness, and wonderful animated sequences, is a real story about finding one's true self.

10. "The Deep End" - This was a rather hard decision between this film and several other near-miss films. A very near miss was "Waking Life," a very innovative and original animated film which is sure to inspire other films with its technique. "The Deep End" is not as innovative as "Waking Life" but offers a taut story, twists and surprises and remarkable acting by Tilda Swinton. The Scottish Swinton plays an affluent American

see TOP TEN, page 7

"Memento" is one of the most original and innovative films ever made.

The Rest of the list: here are more good films for 2001

There are lots of great films for 2001 that just missed being on my top ten list for 2001. While the year 2001 may have been a horrible year in most respects, it ended up surprisingly good for films. The industry redeemed its early poor showing with a flurry of year-end goodies. I wasn't the only critic who had to struggle to pare down the list when earlier this year I thought that, like 2000, I would have to struggle to come up with ten worthy films.

It's worth noting that few of these films came from mainstream Hollywood studios. Even where a big studio name was attached as a distributor, most of these good films were the work of independent or foreign filmmakers willing to take some chances. Increasingly, studio films are so saturated

with marketing influences and so disdainful of original ideas and writing that they hardly produce anything even moderately entertaining, let alone anything of artistic or social merit. They are aware that quality is sinking but don't want to take the chances to change it. Luckily, we live in a town with a few non-mainstream outlets.

In my effort to par down its size, my list left off films that were really released in 2000 in other cities but didn't make it here until this year. This is just an arbitrary distinction and every one of these films are worthy. This includes "Dinner Rush," the Audience's Choice winner of the 2000 St. Louis International Film Festival, which is now playing at Plaza Frontenac. Go see this crowd-pleaser if you haven't already. A number of the

picks from last year have come and gone and I'll get back to those in a minute.

We are also just now getting some films that merit serious consideration and which opened in other cities in 2001 - to qualify for the Oscars. These films include "Gosford Park," Robert Altman's wonderful ensemble comedy of upstairs/downstairs life in 1930s England, and Ridley Scott's grim, even horrific, war film "Black Hawk Down," a far cry from the "action movie" view of warfare.

Both these films are scheduled to open here in the next few weeks, but are appearing on national critics' top ten lists. Other films appearing on those lists that have opened elsewhere, but which I haven't yet seen, include "Iris," "Monster's Ball" and "No

Man's Land." I'll be reviewing these are they come to our screens. "In July," one of the hits of the 2001 film fest, is not on this list because it's not yet scheduled to show in theaters. Hopefully, this clever and hilarious German (yes, German!) film will return in 2002.

Other good films that just missed the top ten list but which are in theaters include two examples of tour-de-force acting, "A Beautiful Mind" and "In the Bedroom." "A Beautiful Mind" features Russell Crowe in a remarkable performance as a math genius who develops schizophrenia, and is one of the most unusual and compelling presentations of that illness ever shown. "In the Bedroom" has Sissy Spacek and a strong cast in a remarkably realistic view of family relationships in

distress.

Most of the other top films that made a late arrival in our area have left theaters now but are or may soon be on video or DVD. These include "Amores Perros," a Mexican film that resembles Pulp Fiction in structure but with its own twist and subterranean humor. "With a Friend like Harry" is a French thriller with a great twist that is another film from the 2000 film fest here. "Before Night Falls," a Spanish-language film about an imprisoned writer that was a nominee at the 2000 Oscars, also made a late appearance here. "Shadow of the Vampire" appeared at the film fest in 2000 and then had a theatrical run here in 2001.

For a year that started out as one of the worst in films, it certainly was filled with great films by the end.

2001

BY RYAN MEEHAN
Music Writer

produced fine moments of musical excellence

The award for "rock album of the year known to the music salesperson working at the mall" goes to Radiohead for "Amnesiac."

End of the year, eh? I kick, I scream, and still I can't resist. I am about to unleash upon the populace an annual trip into the irrelevant. I know you hate it, because so do I. Yet it must be done, so here it is, the venerable "best of the year in music."

2001 was the comeback of old school rock. Infuriated by the bubble gum idiocy of N'Sync and Limp Bizkit, the greater minds of the genre stepped up. The year hosted career highs from all-time heroes. Musicianship showed its timelessness.

Regardless of musical sway, the individual listener in the non-distinct house of the nowhere neighborhood had the chance for audio pleasure. From the gleeful recognition of the old fulfilling life-long promises of greatness, to the jittery enthusiasm of the young's reverent revision of the old,

2001 showed the state of the music business to be strong.

Sounds like those of the Stooges and Velvet Underground, innovators of urban grit, were mixed with the back yard rock of Led Zeppelin and stewed with the shoe-gazing pop rock of the early nineties, giving birth to such projects as The Strokes and Black Rebel Motor Cycle Club. The youngest and hottest sound of 2001 was the reinvention, not simple revival, of rock's classic sounds.

Heroes of rock myth from yesterday brought their genius, along with them into the twenty first century, releasing albums that were masterpieces of matured brilliance. The best of these was Bob Dylan's "Love and Theft." Dylan's timeless appeal belongs to his ability to create ballads of penetrating lyrical intensity mixed with accompanying melodies that are both clever and catchy. "Love and Theft," Dylan's latest work, belongs among the best of his long musical career. The world of indie-rock saw long time heroes Guided By Voices put out the most complete realization of their sound. Also, Fugazi, one of the oldest and most successful punk rock

bands, released their best album to date. U2 also released an album that sold a bazillion copies and won a couple major industry awards, I just didn't really pay attention.

The award for "rock album of the year known to the music salesperson working at the mall" goes to Radiohead for "Amnesiac." After years of breathless silence following their triumphant tour de force "O.K. Computer," Radiohead has released two albums in rapid-fire succession. 2000's "Kid A" was a gorgeous vision of electronic-rock architecture, yet it's often replacement of the guitar with blips and blurs infuriated many fans. Radiohead promised that 2001's "Amnesiac" would be a return to the guitar driven opus that had originally endeared them to the masses. This wasn't quite the case, "Amnesiac" was still closer to "Kid A" than it was to "O.K. Computer." Nonetheless it still had the staples of Radiohead's music. "Amnesiac" has manically concentrated rhythms that cut through the oscillating emotions of singer Thom Yorke's voice with gut wrenching harmony.

The award for "rock album of the

year unknown to the music salesperson working at the mall" goes to Sparklehorse for "It's a Wonderful Life". Lead singer Mark Linkhous wrote this album after a long hiatus from music following a drug overdose. The incident resulted in the loss of much of the use in Linkhous' legs. Considering the ill fate that Linkhous has endured, one might think that his album title "It's a Wonderful Life" is meant to be ironic. Indeed the moody melodic texture of the album has to be the result of a man who has journeyed through darkness, yet Linkhous does seem to still have a fascination for the beautiful, a fascination that betrays an intense love of life. "It's a Wonderful Life" listens like a tour through the quiet side of human experience. At times half-lidded plodding and at other times immediate and intense, "It's a Wonderful Life" is a dreamlike ride through a world bathed in gentle, ominous shadow.

I would like to conclude my brief survey of 2001 by pointing out two legends that died during the expanse of the year, The Ramones' Joey Ramone and The Beatles' George Harrison. Rest in peace.

The award for "rock album of the year unknown to the music salesperson working at the mall" goes to Sparklehorse for "It's a Wonderful Life."

TOP TEN, from page 6

"soccer mom" caught up in a blackmail scheme, a situation she must deal with secretly and still be on time to get the kids from school. Great acting with exceptional story, suspense and psychological thrills.

Plus two: These don't have a ranking because they are too different. One is a

classic film remade and the other is an astounding documentary. "Apocalypse Now Redux" - Already a classic film, "Apocalypse Now" was recut into a longer version, with restored footage that gives a much fuller telling of the story. This film is an intriguing new view of the classic and a worthy second

interpretation. While it is clear why some of this footage was removed to improve the flow of the original version, "Redux" fills in many blanks and resolves some of the questions of the original film besides giving a deeper picture of the characters. In some ways, it is an entirely different film and the

two versions will doubtless remain as a pair of classics.

"The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition" - A remarkable and engrossing documentary. In 1914, Ernest Shackleton set out on his ship, the Endurance, to launch an expedition to cross the continent of

Antarctica. What happened instead is an epic tale more harrowing than any fiction could be, a story of survival that made the name of the ship particularly apt. This documentary is a great leap in style, just as Ken Burns' original Civil War documentary was, and takes the audience on an incredible adventure

through the use of actual movie footage shot by a photographer brought along to record the expedition, along with modern location shots, family interviews, diaries, and expedition stills. A visually dynamic and moving film, narrated by Liam Neeson, with the scope, suspense, and dramatic arc of a classic legend.

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Illinois State U. student government resolves against U. Illinois mascot

BY TOM RYBARCZYK
Daily Illini

(U-WIRE) CHAMPAIGN, Ill. - Valerie Uihlein, the Illinois State University student government spokeswoman, said she doesn't want her university's athletic teams to play the University of Illinois.

The University's basketball team doesn't bother her, but the use of Chief Illiniwek as a mascot and symbol does. Uihlein feels ISU should not support or endorse the Chief by playing against the University.

ISU's Student Government Association passed a resolution supporting the Native American Student Association and their efforts to stop racially motivated stereotypes on Dec. 5. The resolution also called for their student government to assist the Native American Student Association in their fight to keep ISU from competing with teams who use, what they call "racially motivated mascots."

The Native American Student Association brought the resolution to the table when they found out ISU

was playing a team with a mascot like Chief Illiniwek, Uihlein said.

"(The student government) doesn't know why (ISU) would play a team with a racist mascot when we have an organization against it," she said.

Also in the resolution, the student government association called for an inquiry into ISU's policy regarding athletic competition with schools who have controversial mascots.

Mike Drish, president of Students for Chief

Illiniwek, labeled the decision as "rash."

"They didn't take enough time in their decision," Drish said. "I don't put much stock into their decision."

Some Big Ten universities, including the University of Iowa and University of Minnesota, banned the Chief from performing at their stadiums.

University spokesman Bill Murphy said the University takes the Chief to perform at one road game a year, but doesn't take him to games at Iowa or Minnesota.



BASKETBALL from page 5

the game and held on for the victory 71-63, outscoring the Rivermen 14-6 in the overtime period.

Deryn Carter led the Rivermen with 20 points, while Scott Kassel and Derrick Redd each added 11 and 10 points respectively in the loss.

The Rivermen then hosted no. 1 ranked Kentucky Wesleyan two days later. Kentucky Wesleyan was coming off a loss to Southern Indiana, a team that the Rivermen defeated earlier in the season 69-53.

Kentucky Wesleyan rebounded off the loss to defeat the Rivermen 86-57. Kentucky Wesleyan took the lead early in the game, jumping out to a 15-7 lead in the first five minutes of the game. The Rivermen would rally to close the gap to two points in the first half, keyed by a

Jarrett Brown lay-up, moving the score to 17-15. Kentucky Wesleyan then went on a run of their own, showing why they were the no. 1 ranked team in the nation, using a 17-0 run to take a 34-15 lead and never looked back as they shot 56% from the floor for the game en route to a Rivermen's defeat.

Jim Schelich led the Rivermen with 15 points, while Deryn Carter finished the game with 11 points in the defeat. Scott Kassel finished the game with four points and tallied 10 rebounds also.

The Rivermen then took one week off of play and will begin the conference stretch when they travel to play against Lewis University and Wisconsin Parkside, before returning home to host Indianapolis and Northern Kentucky Jan. 26 and 31.

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MICAH ISSITT
Science Columnist

Scientists discover a new state of matter

these phases, but recent scientific work has produced a discovery that has permanently altered our understanding of the physical phases of matter.

In 1995, Eric Cornell and Carl Wieman from the University of Colorado created the first new phase of matter in their lab. The material is called "Bose-Einstein Condensate" or "BEC," in honor of the scientists who predicted its existence.

Wieman and Cornell utilized a process called "laser cooling" to create their condensate. Lasers are made up of "photons," which are tiny packets of light energy. Photons can be used to heat a substance by transferring their energy in the form of heat.

These scientists experimented with bouncing lasers off of the surfaces of Rubidium atoms, pulling heat from the

atoms instead of transferring their heat to the atoms.

To achieve this goal, Wieman and Cornell used a special instrument called a "magnetic trap," which uses a field of magnetism to hold atoms in place and "evaporative cooling" which is a process by which the atoms with the most heat energy are allowed to escape from the trap leaving only the cooler atoms behind.

Eventually the sample becomes so cold the atoms undergo a change of state into a BEC. This change happens at incredibly cold temperatures approaching absolute zero Kelvin—a theoretical lowest temperature, which occurs at about -459 degrees Fahrenheit. This temperature does not actually exist anywhere in nature and has never before been created in

the lab.

The phases of matter, solid, liquid, and gas are related to the amount of energy the atoms have. The more energy the atoms have the more they move, and so gasses have more energy than liquids, which have more energy than solids. If any atoms were able to become as cold as absolute zero, they would not move at all.

To create BEC, Cornell and Wieman had to reduce the temperature of their Rubidium sample to as close to absolute zero as possible. Using their unique methods they reduced the temperature of their Rubidium sample to 0.000,000,001 of a degree above absolute zero. They believe that this is the coldest temperature that has ever existed.

At this extremely low temperature,

just minute fractions above total cessation of movement, their Rubidium sample showed very strange properties. The individual atoms of rubidium lost their identities and coalesced into a single blob. At this state they are not really separate atoms anymore because they all behave in the exact same way, moving together.

Some researchers have referred to this state as a "superatom", because the atoms cease to be separate entities and assume a group identity. This material does not behave like a solid, liquid, or a gas, but has unique properties making it an entirely new phase of matter.

Since this achievement many other labs have been able to produce BEC using a variety of substances.

Right now scientists are only able

to produce BEC in very small samples of a few million atoms at a time. In addition, BEC is the most fragile thing that has ever existed and scientists still have to find ways to keep their samples stable for longer periods.

Eventually BEC may enable scientists to build atomic lasers that fire condensate rather than light energy. In addition, it is predicted that BEC may become useful for constructing very small machinery and circuitry. BEC may also be used to devise awesomely sensitive measurement devices and scientific machinery.

The most amazing facet to this discovery is simply the fact that a new phase of matter has been created. In a world made of solids, liquids, and gasses, we now have a new possibility in the Bose-Einstein Condensate.

PURCHASE, from page 3

helped the nation become a world power and made St. Louis the "Gateway to the West."

The boundaries of the Louisiana Territory were the Mississippi River on the east, the Rocky Mountains on the west, the Canadian border on the north, and the Gulf of Mexico on the south. On April 30, 1803, the United States purchased 828,000 square miles from France for \$15 million.

The actual Louisiana Purchase consists of three separate agreements between the U.S. and France: a treaty of cession and two contracts providing for the actual payment of monies. A textual transcription of the documents is available at <http://www.nara.gov/exhall/originals/louisxt.html>.

The second part of the celebration project is a \$911,531 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to be shared among UM-St. Louis, the Ritenour School District, and the Cooperating School Districts. The money is to be used by history teachers to "get away from survey-style teaching and make it more interesting to the student," said Chambers, assistant director of a U.S. Department of

Education-funded professional development program at UM-St. Louis. "Teachers will incorporate newly available visual materials and Web-based research resources in lessons on the importance of westward expansion in America's and St. Louis's history."

The third part of the plan is the creation of a committee to develop UM-St. Louis' component in the commemoration and festivities. Along with O'Rourke and Chambers, the committee includes Teresa Guess, David Robertson, Deborah Burris, Deborah Baldini, Fred Fausz, Jay Rounds, John Hoover, John Hylton, Douglas Turpin, Sarapage McCorkle, Louis Lankford, T. Ryan Connor, Cindy Vantine, Carl Hoagland, Carol Schwantes, John Wolford and Maureen Zegel.

The NLPBC and Center for the Humanities at UM-St. Louis are working jointly on a Western literature symposium entitled "Literature of the Louisiana Purchase."

"We want to make sure all cultural groups are represented," said Chambers. "One of the great things about opening up the West was the incredible cultural diversity it added

to our country." The festival will memorialize and reenact the 1803 ceremony. The presidents of the U.S. and France and the king of Spain have been invited. The governors of the states which came from the Louisiana Purchase and representatives of the Native American tribes from the region have also been invited. Thirteen states were at least partially once a segment of the nearly 600,000 acres: Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Wyoming and Montana.

Blanche M. Touhill, chancellor of UM-St. Louis, has been appointed co-chair of NLPBC. She said, "Missouri played a critical role in this period of our history, and it is a privilege to be part of the commemoration."

Other planned activities for the weekend event include presentations of Native American cultures and folklore. The committee also hopes to display the original treaty of the Louisiana Purchase, which includes the signature of Napoleon, display in the Museum of Westward Expansion below the Arch.

CHARTWELL, from page 1

According to Evans, the labor dollars that will be saved by closing Aroma's earlier will be channeled into marketing and promotions for the students. After 3:00 p.m., the C-stores will serve as the sole source of food for the University. To help with this, Evans will be placing pre-wrapped sandwiches and some of Aroma's goods in the stores, as well as the usual grocery staples.

Evans and the Chartwells team worked to retain as many employees of Food Service Consultants - the company who previously held the dining contract - as possible. Each employee was reevaluated, and most were retained. An exact number was not available at the time of the interview.

"We tried to retain what we possibly could from FSC," said Evans.

"We conducted evaluations of all current employees. The only people not retained were the management teams. We brought in all-new management from the Chartwells Company."

Chartwells is a member of the Compass Group, which also handles the Trans World Dome locally, and is the sole contractor of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, Utah.

CUBA, from page 3

where Ernest Hemingway visited, including the Old Man who inspired Hemingway's novel, "Old Man and the Sea."

"He was 104 years old and in a wheelchair," Phares said. "He didn't have a lot of faculties, but he was still bright and energetic."

Cuba officially became a Communist country in 1959, after the declaration of Fidel Castro as their prime minister. In 1960, an embargo on all trade led to an official break of ties between the Cuban and U.S. gov-

ernments in 1961.

Phares said that he wants to bring his study of economics and tourism in urban landscapes. "I want to contrast the centrally planned Communist economy with the free market economy and explore the advantages and disadvantages of both," Phares said.

"The Communist market has proven not too work," Phares said. "The Soviet Union didn't work, China is slowly becoming a free market, and so Cuba stands alone as a Communist country."

Tourism is also a field that Phares will be studying and teaching. "I'm interested in tourism and how it develops the economy," Phares said. "Tourism will be a big industry for Cuba."

Phares also sees a possible future of Cuba converting to a free market. "Much of Cuba is still controlled by a central government, but there is a large part of the economy that caters to tourism," Phares said. "When Castro dies, the question will be what will they do?"

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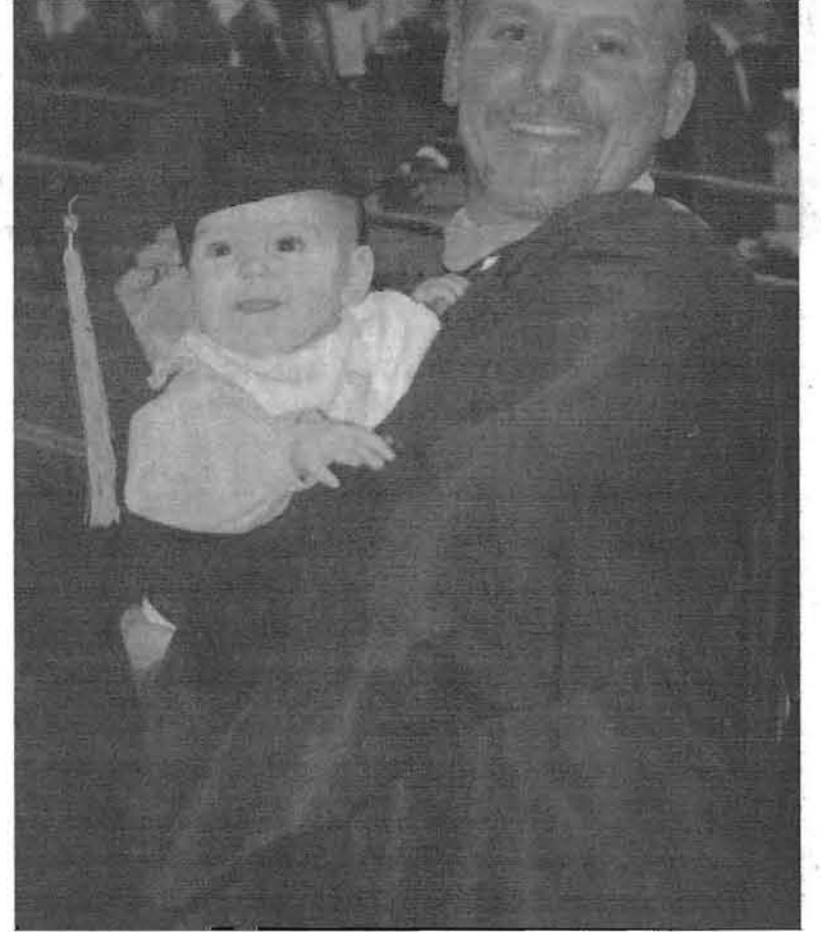
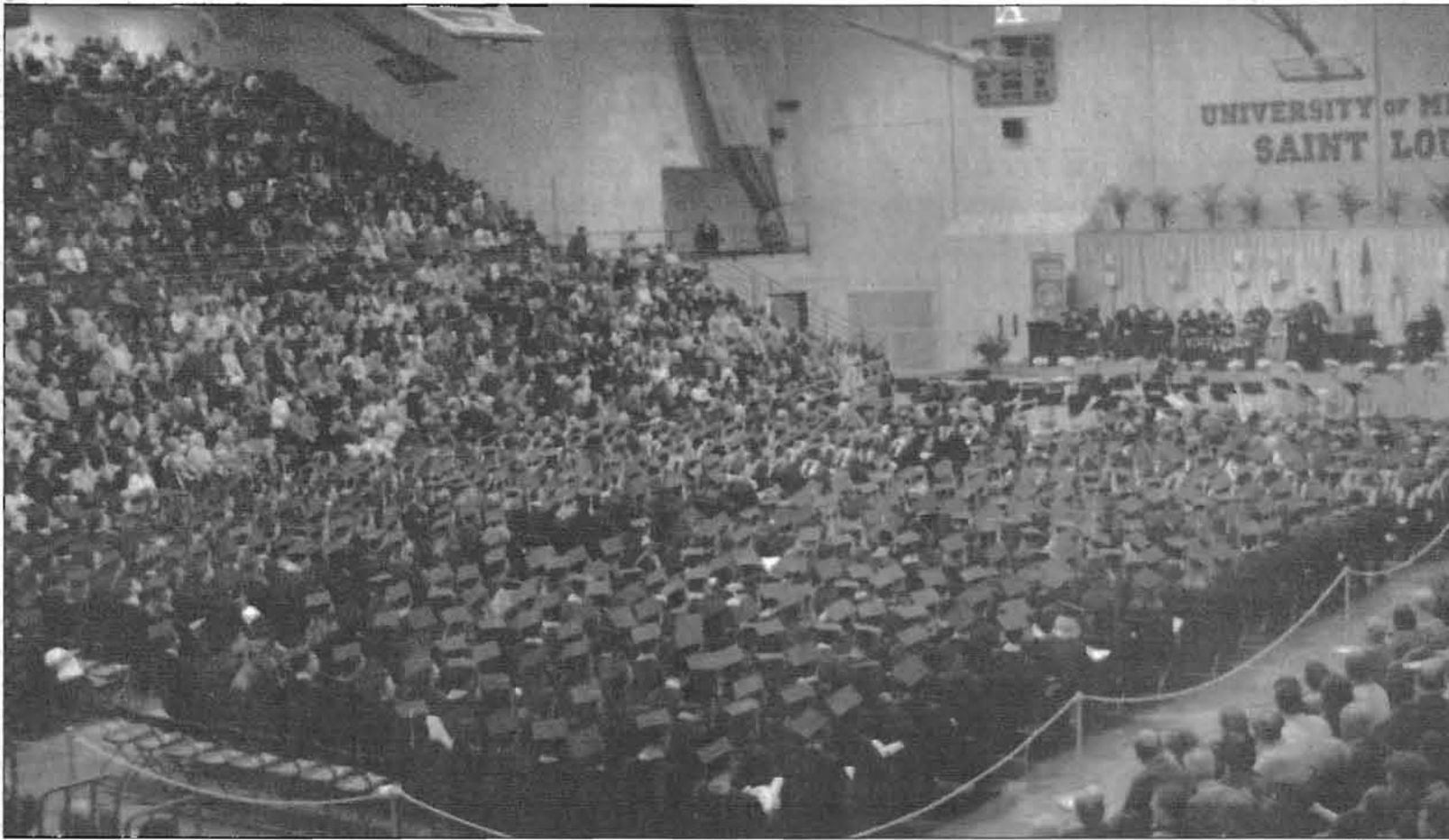
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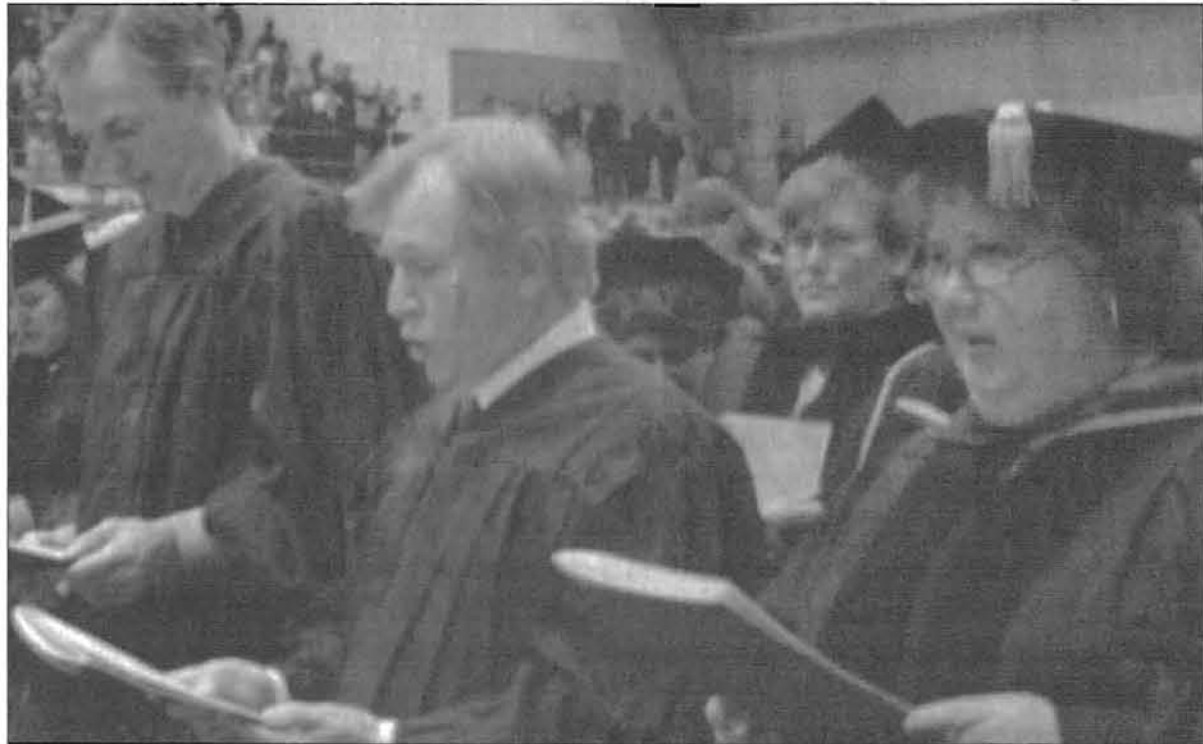


Graduation ceremonies took place Sunday in the Mark Twain Athletic Complex. The gymnasium was filled to capacity as the latest of UM-St. Louis's finest took that hallowed walk to the podium.

In all, over 1,000 students were conferred degrees from the University in this, the 78th commencement held by the UM-St. Louis campus.

The honorable Peter Kinder, President Pro Tem of the Missouri Senate, gave the commencement address.

In addition to the degrees conferred, Chancellor Touhill also awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters to Theodore Carl Wetterau, former CEO of Wetterau Incorporated, a St. Louis-based food distribution company.



Top Left: Students no more. Recent UM-St. Louis alumni prepare for their last walk as undergraduates.

Top Right: Mark Moran, M.S. MIS '01, and daughter Claire celebrate at commencement.

Left: UMSL faculty join the recent graduates in singing "Heart of Missouri," the University's Alma Mater.

photos by Mutsumi Igarashi/ The Current

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